

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reporting the context of an alert condition, comprising:
 - reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;
 - 5 analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;
 - generating a context message based on the context data; and
 - outputting the context message.

10 2. The method of claim 1, further including receiving a request to report the context of the alert condition.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the analyzing includes determining properties of the subject system object.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a physical location of a component represented by the subject system object.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a logical relationship of a component represented by the subject system object to at least one other component.

25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes determining a traffic load associated with the subject system object.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing includes identifying one or more system objects, each identified system object representing a components that is dependent on a component represented by the subject system object.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein generating includes replacing quantifiable context data with a qualitative identifier.

9. A system for reporting the context of an alert condition, comprising:
5 means for reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;
means for analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;
means for generating a context message based on the context data; and
means for outputting the context message.

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10. A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for reporting the context of an alert condition, including:
computer readable instructions for reporting an alert condition associated with a subject system object;
15 computer readable instructions for analyzing one or more system objects associated with the alert condition to obtain context data;
computer readable instructions for generating a context message based on the context data; and
computer readable instructions for outputting the context message.